

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy extended during the interview on June 15, 2006. The substance of the interview is set forth in the Interview Summary.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EPO0638486 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,242,702 to Fond. Claim 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EPO0057671 in view of Fond. None of the cited references disclose a hollow inwardly directed and closed cylindrical extension centered on the central axis. The Office action, p. 3, asserts that EP0057671 discloses "a hollow inwardly directed cylindrical extension 22." However, appendage 22 of EP0057671 is open, not closed. That is, appendage 22 has an axial outlet conduit 24 with an intake orifice 26 and an outflow orifice 28.

For the reasons set forth above, claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9 and 14-17 are believed to be allowable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9 and 14-17 are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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